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**TESTIMONY OF LOUIS CRISCI  
BEFORE THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE**

February 24, 2011

To: Labor and Public Employees Committee

Re: S.B. No. 363 (COMM) AN ACT ALLOWING MINORS TO WORK IN FAMILY  
BUSINESSES

Dear Co-Chairmen, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee:

I am a citizen and an Attorney licensed to practice Law in the State of Connecticut. In my youth I worked for seventeen years in my father's meat market/grocery store from age ten. I as well as at least five of my six sisters worked in my father's store in our youth. It taught every one of us common sense, business etiquette, and a strong work ethic. Three attributes ninety-five percent of today's youth lacks. At a young age, when my father determined I was responsible enough, I was using butcher knives, meat cleavers, hand saws, deli slicing machines, cube steak machines, electric cheese graters, meat grinders and finally a band saw. I am proud to say, I still have all my fingers. I worked Saturdays, summers, and days off from School. When I went to High School, I took the city bus from school to my father's store and worked there until closing. I went home, ate and did my homework. It not only taught me about my father's trade, but it also exposed me to people and life experiences I would not have readily been exposed to. I lived in Branford, went to High School in West Haven (Notre Dame) and worked in the Fair Haven section of New Haven. I was exposed to many cultures both in the clientele and with the employees. These experiences, I believe were more educational than some of my formal schooling. I understand and agree that there need to be laws to protect young people and child labor especially given this country's history. However, here, as in many cases, I believe our legislature has gone too far. We are a melting pot of cultures and professions. These cultures and professions can only continue if there is someone to carry them on. I believe an exception should be carved out from these youth employment laws for blood relatives so long as written consent of the parents is given.

Respectfully Yours,

  
Louis A. Crisci, Jr., Esq.